General Council Meeting
July 12, 2017

Sarah Goodman
Lisa Guay
Orpheus Chatzivasileiou
Krithika Ramchander
New Faces

- Welcome to General Council!
Quorum check
Approve June Minutes

• Found on GSC website and GCM announcement email
70 Amherst St.
70 Amherst St.

• The undergraduate dorm formerly known as Senior House will become a graduate dorm for this upcoming academic year.
  • Timeline for how long it will remain a grad dorm is uncertain.
• Chancellor Cindy Barnhart and Vice President for Student Life Suzy Nelson recognize that the addition of 70 Amherst will not suffice to meet the current need for graduate housing.
  • They will be working with the graduate community to support students moving into 70 Amherst and to expand grad student housing stock
Decision making process

- Letter to undergraduate student body from the Chancellor
  - “Unfortunately, …it became clear this spring that the turnaround had failed. We learned that dangerous behavior …was taking place in the house and … that the community knew about the behavior, but was neither stopping that behavior on its own, nor turning to us for help in stopping it.”
  - “To our great regret, the [turnaround] plan was also met with intensive efforts to perpetuate and reimpose Senior House, thus undermining any chance for a new community to succeed.
  - We reluctantly came to the conclusion that the only path left to us was for the building to house graduate students.
- The GSC was not involved in the decision to turn Senior House into grad housing
Moving to 70 Amherst

- Listed on graduate housing website
- Housing lottery extended to Thursday to give grad students the opportunity to rank 70 Amherst as their preference.
- Students who have already been placed in the lottery can request to move to 70 Amherst.
- Students already living on- or off-campus can request to move to 70 Amherst.
- Assignments in 70 Amherst will be made through a lottery.
Structure of 70 Amherst

- All single rooms - no shared rooms
- Air conditioning
- Smoke-free, pet-free
- 128 single rooms, with community bathroom and kitchen in hallway
  - Ratio of 4.3 students per toilet.
- 5 single apartments with private bathroom, living room, and kitchen
- Rooms are furnished
What happens to the undergrads?

- Undergrad dorms already crowded because of New House renovation
- Some undergraduates will be placed in graduate dorms
  - Most likely less than 60
- Undergrads are being offered $3000 credit or a 10 meal per week meal-plan as an incentive to move to grad housing
- Undergrads will participate in the lottery system - they rank their preferences, and may or may not get a spot
What happens to the undergrads?

- Undergrads who are placed in grad housing and who continue at MIT for grad school will be offered a spot in grad housing their first year of grad school.
  - Precedent set in 90’s when the decision was made to house all freshmen on campus
- The GSC was not involved in the decision to place undergrads in graduate housing or offering this incentive structure.
Moving Forward

• Housing update will be going out to all grad students in a few days

• Ad-hoc working group on Graduate Communities
  • Proposed membership:
    • GSC Officers
    • HCA Co-Chairs
    • Grad dorm presidents or representatives
    • Incoming residents of 70 Amherst (continuing grad students)
    • At-large grad student members
    • Kristen Covino, Associate Head of House
    • Naomi Carton, Associate Dean for Residential Life and Dining
Professional Development Initiative
Graduate Professional Development

- One of Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz’s top priorities for the year is developing a plan to improve grad student professional development
- Will build upon the Graduate Professional Development Working Group that was restarted this spring
  - ODGE, GECD, GSC
Tentative Plan of Attack

• Stage 1: Information Gathering
  • Timeline: Summer-Fall 2017
  • Goals:
    • Understand what is already available to students at MIT
    • Identify gaps in resources
    • Gather best practices from departments, other schools
  • Actions:
    • Catalog current offerings: Institute-wide, departmental, student groups
    • Collect information about effective programs/offerings at other schools
    • Perform comprehensive analysis of existing data relating to professional development (with MIT Institute Research)
    • Conduct student focus groups
• Stage 2: Develop roadmap and begin implementation
  • Timeline: Fall 2017 - Spring 2018+
  • Goals:
    • Fill gaps in offerings
    • Improve awareness of available resources
  • Actions:
    • Create well-publicized resource repository
    • Share best practices across departments
    • Identify and expand successful models
    • Develop and pilot new programs to fill gaps
Background

• 2012-2013 - ODGE convened Task Force on Graduate Student Professional Development (TFPRO)
  • Charge:
    • To collect, review and summarize desirable skillsets, both discipline-specific and transferable, for MIT graduates in various disciplines and employment sectors (e.g. through alumni surveys, focus groups, current literature, etc.) and to identify core competency areas
    • To map current MIT professional development offerings to identified skillsets and core competency areas
    • To identify best practices within and outside of MIT in the area of professional development
    • To provide recommendations for formulating a comprehensive coherent set of offerings by building on best practices, exploring synergies, addressing gap areas, allowing for a balance between discipline-specific versus transferable activities, etc.
    • To propose options for supporting and collaborating with graduate programs and connecting professional development activities to curricula
    • To report on potential opportunities to leverage online platforms to provide professional development content and enhance in-person professional development activities
  
  • Report: [https://mit.edu/odge/mitonly/TFPRO%20Report%20Final.pdf](https://mit.edu/odge/mitonly/TFPRO%20Report%20Final.pdf)
    • Certificates required to access
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Goals for our students</th>
<th>Specific outcomes of training, experience, or professional development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Ethics                        | - Consistently act with professional ethics                                            | - Know professional standards for ethical behavior and academic integrity  
- Use interpersonal and collaborative practices to enact and defend these ethics |
| Communication                 | - Speak and write clearly for varied audiences                                          | - Convey technical matter creatively and efficiently, including via visual formats  
- Master appropriate forms of scientific writing (e.g., persuasive research proposals)  
- Provide, elicit, and respond to technical feedback, as in journal and proposal reviews  
- Explain your work to broad audiences  
- Develop strategies for effective email writing, informal communication, and social media participation |
| Teaching, coaching, mentoring | - Skillfully teach, coach, and advise others  
- Write and interpret effective reference letters  | - Understand content and methods for teaching in your field, along with promising innovations  
- Develop your repertoire of teaching methods and materials  
- Know your teaching strengths and weaknesses  
- Know how to developmentally guide others in their work, including when and how to offer advice and direction |
| Critical thinking             | - Creatively draw on relevant inputs to solve problems  
- Apply logic consistently and rigorously  
- Recognize and adapt to findings and changes  | - Use varied methods to glean, screen, and synthesize new ideas and findings linked to your work  
- Identify, test, and defend the logic, framing, and assumptions underlying your research or projects  
- Design creative and practical solutions to challenges in the course of work, on your own and with others  
- Shift the focus of your activities as warranted by the stage of the project |
| Personal development          | - Build networks of professional relationships  
- Manage work activities productively  
- Build a meaningful life and career  
- Continue to develop professional knowledge and skills  | - Develop productive professional relationships across your institution  
- Expand relationships in academic or industry circles (conferences, online, etc.)  
- Prioritize your own tasks, manage completion, allocate attention, and follow up to enable personal time management  
- Master techniques to efficiently handle email, documents, information, and materials  
- Set and enact reasonable goals for work, personal, and family life by understanding and aligning professional and other roles  
- Assess job opportunities, seeking and obtaining appropriate new positions  
- Employ practical strategies to respond positively to critical feedback and to develop personal resilience  
- Build mentoring relationships to enable your own development  
- Understand career lifecycles and requirements for advancement in order to manage your own growth (for instance by seeking developmental assignments or pursuing new positions)  
- Develop practical strategies for continuing to update your knowledge of research, trends, and technologies in your own and related fields |
| Leading and working with others | - Collaborate and interact effectively in teams  
- Negotiate skillfully  
- Enable effective interpersonal interactions  
- Actively advance diversity in professional domains  
- Lead others  
- Start up new things  | - Learn frameworks and methods for working with others, including in creative, problem-solving, and implementation modes  
- Design and manage workflows, accounting for interdependencies and uncertainties, in team projects  
- Know basic approaches to negotiating and develop requisite practical skills  
- Learn approaches to conflict resolution, facilitation, difficult conversations, interpersonal feedback, consensus building, and group decision making  
- Design and run effective meetings  
- Customize effective performance management methods for supervisees  
- Manage up to enable support from above  
- Appreciate different perspectives, backgrounds, disciplines, and frameworks  
- Adopt and defend professional practices to support diversity in your classroom, office, group, lab, department, institution  
- Frame meaningful goals for individuals, teams, and organizations  
- Connect goals to cogent & compelling accounts of your own experience or vision  
- Understand leadership traits and activities and your own leadership profile to draw on strengths and address gaps  
- Employ innovative thinking to imagine new possibilities  
- Develop a toolkit and personal experience base for building new projects, programs, labs, or companies |
GSC ARC: Cataloging Current Resources

• Task Force Landscape Survey
  ➢ The 2012-2013 Task Force reached out to all departments to get a comprehensive list of Prof Dev programs available to grad students
  ➢ The information was mostly attained through graduate admins and was limited by the response rate of the departments
  ➢ The data was compiled into a matrix of offerings which was comprised of mostly yes/no responses with limited in-depth information

• By updating the survey, we can get access to both up-to-date and also more in-depth and complete data
  ➢ This is where GSC can help!
What we need help with

• Looking for department reps to help gather information from departments
  ➢ Looking for general information
    ➢ Does your dep. have resources to help with resumes?
    ➢ Does your dep. have resources for finding careers open to you?
    ➢ Etc.

• Looking for your perspective as a grad student

• Grad Admins can also help fill in information you don’t know
Moving Forward

• Please email GSC-ARC@mit.edu and let us know if you are willing to be a POC for your department
• We will then reach out to you soon with information to collect
  ➢ This won’t be a major time commitment as most of the information you will most likely know off the top of your head and one meeting with a grad admin can fill in the rest
• An email will be coming out to all graduate students soon from the Professional Development Working Group also helping ARC solicit help in gathering this information
Final Note

• Finally, If you are interested in providing input into the types of questions asked or are just interested in Graduate Professional Development in general:
  • Please come to the ARC committee tomorrow, July 13th at 6PM in the GSC Office
  • We would love feedback and help devising questions that will get us the best and most complete picture of graduate professional development at MIT

• Thanks in advance everyone!
Sloan Entrepreneurship and Innovation Club

Alex Qi
Officer Updates
Office of the Vice Chancellor Update

- Name changes
  - ODGE → Office of Graduate Education (OGE)
  - DUE → Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE)
- For time being, no changes to functions or roles
- Developing new structure
  - Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz is convening all-hands retreats this summer and will keep GSC updated as decisions are made
  - Ian is sensitive to staff uncertainty
  - Timeline for structural changes unclear at this point
Committee Updates
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Karthik Akkiraju and Yijin Wei
Co-Chairs
gsc-ac@mit.edu
Summer Social 5/14

- Experimental Coffee Hour
- Non-Coffee drinks and game
- GSC Games Bundle!

New Coffee Hour Team
gsc-ac@mit.edu
Upcoming Event

Harbor Island Trip : 7/22
BBQ, Games, Water.

SOLD OUT
THANK YOU!!!
New Initiative
AC Outreach Sub-Committee

• Community service
• Teaming up with student organization

Next AC Meeting: 13 July, 7-8 PM
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, AND CAREERS

Pat O’Shea and Richard Zhang
Co-Chairs
gsc-arc@mit.edu
July 2017 GCM ARC Updates

• The Nuts and Bolts of an Academic Job (July 19th, 2:30pm-4pm, Rm 34-101)
  ➢ Five panelists (women-majority) have been confirmed
  ➢ Individual departments have the information and have been distributing it

• Finding a PostDoc (August 17th 2:30pm-4pm (planned))
  ➢ Beginning search for panelists now

• Career Resources for Graduate Students
  ➢ Resources to be advertised at Orientation Resource Fair
  ➢ Planning a Career Options for PhDs Panel and other (TBA) events in the weeks leading up to the Career Fair
July 2017 GCM ARC Updates

• Advising Initiative
  ➢ Working to collect information on the Advising practices of individual departments
  ➢ Planning a Choosing an Advisor event to hopefully occur in the Fall based on the information gathered
  ➢ Need more information from following departments:
    ➢ MechE
    ➢ Chemistry
    ➢ Civil
    ➢ Biology
    ➢ Physics
    ➢ Media Lab
    ➢ Management
    ➢ Econ
    ➢ ORC
    ➢ HASS
    ➢ HST
June 2017 ExComm Meeting ARC

Updates

• Distressing Your Dissertations
  - Planning to hold a week long event the 1st week of August for grad students to have a quiet space in the Library to work on their thesis
  - Food will be provided
  - More Information to come

• Please come to the monthly ARC meeting: Tomorrow, July 13th at 6pm in the GSC Office
  - Will be focusing on Advising Initiative and the landscape survey
  - Free Dinner!
ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Sabina Chen
ASA President
asa-exec@mit.edu
ASA Database Update

- New database will likely be rolled out later this month
- Background:
  - Old database no longer supported by IS&T
  - New database platform (CampusGroups) purchased last October
  - Much work since then to implement critical functions in new system
- What does this mean for you?
  - During a short transition period, will not be able to make updates to group information
  - Documentation will be provided to help groups navigate the new system after migration
  - We expect no significant disruption in ASA and SAO support
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Peter Su: Chair
gsc-eab@mit.edu
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Malvika Verma and Nicholas Triantafillou
Co-Chairs
gsc-hca@mit.edu
HCA Matters

- Diversity Subcommittee is up and running
- Meeting with GRTs and Grad Dining
- Recruitment for Family Subcommittee
- Email us if you are interested in helping with the Cost of Living survey
Contact us: gsc-hca@mit.edu

Come to the next HCA meeting on July 24th at 5:30 p.m.

- Interested in…
  - Best food in the GSC
  - Mental Health topics
  - Improving transportation at MIT
  - Housing quality and affordability
  - Family and childcare

http://www.gassassociates.com/
MUDDY CHARLES PUB

Alex Genshaft
gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu
ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

German Parada and Akshata Krishnamurthy
Co-Chairs

gsc-oc@mit.edu
What has happened?

- OC meeting last week
  - Selected the logo competition winners – awaiting the final logo from the publicity team
  - Website content uploaded
  - Still looking for Event Coordinators – can you help recruit?

- Meetings with key contacts
  - This Week: Meetings with the Office of the President, and Individual Event Coordinators, and MIT Libraries
  - Next Week: COOP, MIT FCU (gifts, sponsorship)
  - TBD: School deans (funding) for the OneMIT Banquet
We’re looking for Event Coordinators for:

- **Graduate Panels**
  - Replacing grad 102-103. Six panels (1h each), topics TBD
  - Recording (Video/audio) for people who can’t make them
- **Graduate Welcome / Presidential Address**
  - On Monday, 8/28 in Kresge from 1:30-3:30 pm
- **Networking event with MIT AA**
- **Reception Under the Dome**
- **Family Carnival**
- **ISO Welcome Dinner**
- **Pride Welcome**
  - Held at Thirsty Ear; coordinate with the Rainbow Lounge

Email us: gsc_oc@mit.edu